

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell comprising:

at least one flow field plate which has at least two flow field paths that have path lengths substantially different from one another, including a first flow field path having a first length and first molar flow rate and a second flow field path having a second length and a second molar flow rate, the first flow field path services a first electrochemical surface area of the at least one flow field plate and the second flow field path services a second electrochemical surface area of the at least one flow field plate, wherein each of said first and second molar flow rates are determined by the formula:

$$m = (i \times A \times s) / (n \times F)$$

wherein

i = current density of the surface area serviced by each of said first and second flow field paths,

A = electrochemical surface area serviced by each of said first and second flow field paths,

s = fuel utilization efficiency between 0.75 and 1,

n = moles of electrons produced by the fuel cell per mole of the reactant consumed, and

F = Faraday's constant,

and wherein the ratio of the first molar flow rate to the second molar flow rate is equal to the ratio of the first electrochemical surface area to the second electrochemical surface area such that said first and second electrochemical surface areas of the at least one flow field plate have a current density equal to one another.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
TO OFFICE ACTION

22. (Cancelled).
23. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 21, wherein the electric current density is uniform throughout the at least one flow field plate.
24. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 21, wherein the at least two flow field paths are formed of channels of fixed dimensions.
25. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 21, wherein the at least two flow field paths are formed of channels of having varying cross-sectional areas.
26. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 25, wherein the depth of the channels is constant along the length of the channels.
27. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 25, wherein the depth of the channels varies along the length of the channels.

28. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell comprising:

 a first flow field plate which has at least two flow field paths that have path lengths substantially different from one another, including a first flow field path having a first length and first molar flow rate and a second flow field path having a second length and a second molar flow rate, the first flow field path services a first electrochemical surface area of the first flow field plate and the second flow field path services a second electrochemical surface area of the first flow field plate;

 a membrane electrode assembly; and

 a second flow field plate which has at least two flow field paths, including a third flow field path having a third length and third molar flow rate and a fourth flow field path having a fourth length and a fourth molar flow rate, the third flow field path services a third electrochemical surface area of the second flow field plate and the fourth flow field path services a fourth electrochemical surface area of the second flow field plate, wherein each of said first second, third, and fourth molar flow rates are determined by the formula:

$$m = (i \times A \times s) / (n \times F)$$

wherein

i = current density of the surface area serviced by each of said first, second, third, and fourth flow field paths,

A = electrochemical surface area serviced by each of said first, second, third, and fourth flow field paths,

s = fuel utilization efficiency between 0.75 and 1,

n = moles of electrons produced by the fuel cell per mole of the reactant consumed, and

F = Faraday's constant,

and wherein the ratio of the first molar flow rate to the second molar flow rate is equal to the ratio of the first electrochemical surface area to the second electrochemical surface area and the ratio of the third molar flow rate to the fourth molar flow rate is equal to the ratio of the third electrochemical surface area to the fourth electrochemical surface area, such that the at

~~least two first and second electrochemical surface areas of the first and second flow field plates have a current density equal to each other and the third and fourth electrochemical surface areas have a current density equal to each other.~~

29. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least two first and second~~ flow field paths are serpentine.

30. (Previously Presented) The fuel cell of claim 1, wherein the ~~at least~~ ~~at least two first and second~~ paths have different numbers of turns, different lengths of straight portions, or both different numbers of turns and lengths of straight portions from one another.